

For me, borders were not a sphere of an imaginary map, but a living threshold, where the law, culture, and the human essence intersected. Having been raised in a migrant family, we were used to moving between two countries regularly. Throughout my early years, I became a witness to the differences between the legal systems, not just in terms of form, but also in use, and the impact that these differences have on life. One afternoon, I went with my cousin to a border checkpoint, and I thought it was going to be a normal crossing. However, the situation that developed was quite contrary to the expectations. My cousin, who was with me, was detained for hours by a police officer due to a minor change in documents. Although the officers acted according to the rules, the inflexibility of the law was in opposition to his life realities, as he was a law-abiding citizen. He had been to school, had worked, and served his community. Seeing him lost and scared, I understood that justice is not merely about rules, but the collocation between rules and shared experience and culture. The law, devoid of compassion or cross-cultural conception, may unwittingly continue to perpetuate inequity. This experience induced my interest in advocacy, and I decided to study law as a means of mediation between formal regulations and human complexity. I started to examine cases and policies of various legal systems and compare cross-border administrative practices and the role of cultural context in influencing legal results. The insights reinforced my belief that justice cannot be achieved in a vacuum, without considering both procedural learning and understanding social, cultural, and human aspects. At Georgetown University Law Center, I would incorporate this view in classroom discussions and service-related efforts. Regardless of international law clinics, policy research, or pro bono advocacy, I would like to clarify how legal rules apply in various population groups and promote solutions to reflect the differences. My

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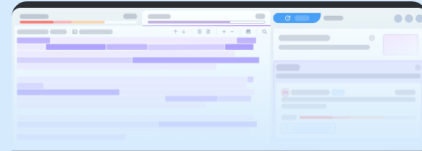
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